

Claims

1. An electrically heated plant propagator (1, 9) comprising or including a transparent cover or lid (4, 10), characterised in that the cover or lid has electrically conductive heating elements (6) on or in the inner surface of the cover or lid, the heating elements being connectable to an electric power supply by which the heating element, through resistive heating, heats the inside of the plant propagator when the cover or lid is closed.
2. A propagator (1, 9) according to claim 1 further characterised in including a soil tray (2, 12) over which the transparent cover or lid (4, 10) may be placed.
3. A propagator (1, 9) according to claim 2 further characterised in including a spacer collar (3, 11) between the cover or lid (4, 10) and the upper rim of the tray (2, 12).
4. A propagator (1, 9) according to claim 3 further characterised in that the spacer collar (3, 11) is transparent.
5. A propagator (1, 9) according to claim 3 or claim 4 further characterised in that the spacer collar (3, 11) is integral with the cover or lid (4, 10).
6. A propagator (1, 9) according to claim 3 or claim 4 further characterised in that the spacer collar (3, 11) is separate from the cover or lid (4, 10).
7. A propagator (1, 9) according to claim 3 or claim 4 when dependent on claim 2 further characterised in that the spacer collar, (3, 11) is integral with the tray (2, 12).
8. A propagator (1, 9) according to claim 3 or claim 4 further characterised in that the spacer collar (3, 11) is separate from the cover or lid (4, 10) and is connectable therewith by e.g. push or snap fit guide formations (13).

9. A propagator (1, 9) according to claim 8 further characterised in that the soil tray (2, 12) is connectable to the spacer collar (3, 11) and/or the cover or lid (4, 10) by e.g. push or snap fit guide formations (13).

5 10. A propagator (1, 9) according to any preceding claim further characterised in that handle means (15) are provided on respectively opposite sides of the cover or lid (4, 10) and/or the spacer collar (3, 11), and/or the soil tray (2, 12).

10 11. A propagator (1, 9) according to claim 10 further characterised in that handle means (15) includes guide or locking formations (13) such as projections or recesses by which the respective parts can be releasably secured together.

12. A propagator (1, 9) according to any preceding claim further characterised in that a thermostat (7) is provided, such as on or in the spacer collar (3, 11), to ensure that the chosen temperature is maintained.

15 13. A propagator (1, 9) according to any preceding claim further characterised in that a spacer collar (3, 11) itself is electrically heated through the use of electrically conductive heating elements (6).

14. A propagator (1, 9) according to any one of claims 2 to 13 further characterised in that the tray (2, 12), where present, is also electrically heated.

20 15. A propagator (1, 9) according to any preceding claim further characterised in that a sensor is incorporated into the propagator (1, 9) to sense conditions in which condensation may be induced.

16. A propagator (1, 9) according to any preceding claim further characterised in that a logic circuit automatically switching the heating elements (6) for the transparent cover or lid (4, 10) and/or the spacer collar (3, 11) on in

order to prevent or inhibit the build up of condensation.

17. A propagator (1, 9) according to claim 15 further characterised in that the sensor also sensing when conditions have changed such that the heating circuit may be switched off when an appropriate rise in ambient temperature has been noted.

18. A propagator (1, 9) according to claim 10 or claim 11 further characterised in that the handle means (15) includes electrical contact means (14), such as a socket, for connecting the propagator (1, 9) to an electricity supply.

19. A propagator (1, 9) according to any one of claims 10, 11 and 18 further characterised in that the handle means (15) includes switches (16, 17), sensors and indicators such as electric lights (18) for indicating the status of the propagator e.g. "off" or "on", operating temperature, humidity inside the propagator, and so on.

20. A propagator (1) substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 1 and 2.

21. A propagator (9) substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to Figures 3 and 4.